

**Westminster Education Forum Keynote Seminar: Key priorities for Multi-Academy Trusts - improving school standards, inspection and leadership**

Timing: Morning, Tuesday, 30<sup>th</sup> April 2019

Venue: Central London

Draft agenda subject to change



**WESTMINSTER  
EDUCATION  
FORUM**

- 8.30 - 9.00 Registration and coffee
- 9.00 - 9.05 **Chair's opening remarks**  
Senior Parliamentarian
- 9.05 - 9.30 **Improving school standards: the future role of Multi-Academy Trusts (MATs)**  
Senior speaker to be confirmed  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.30 - 10.20 **Next steps for MATs: improving the conversion process, developing successful collaborative models and raising attainment in disadvantaged areas**  
*Following the Secretary of State's announcement of a renewed emphasis on encouraging schools to join MATs in order to increase collaboration, how can the conversion process be improved? In what ways can recent concerns surrounding the impact of schools joining a MAT such as the potential effects on staff pensions and salaries be overcome? In line with the Department's vision for MATs, how can increased alignment and collaboration with other schools in the MAT be achieved, including the sharing of teaching resources? By what means can individuality be maintained by schools within MATs whilst sustaining their collaborative partnerships? How can the MAT model be better employed in areas of disadvantage?*  
**Councillor Ray Gooding**, Cabinet Member for Education and Lifelong Learning, Essex County Council  
**Rowena Hackwood**, Chief Executive Officer, David Ross Education Trust  
Senior representative, headteacher  
Senior representative, university  
Commentator  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.20 - 10.25 **Chair's closing remarks**  
Senior Parliamentarian
- 10.25 - 10.50 Coffee
- 10.50 - 10.55 **Chair's opening remarks**  
Senior Parliamentarian
- 10.55 - 11.20 **Creating an effective accountability system for MATs: ensuring improved leadership and standards**  
Senior speaker to be confirmed  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.20 - 11.30 **Developing a best practice model of MAT governance: ensuring high standards of leadership and taking from examples outside of education**  
**Stephen Morales**, Chief Executive Officer, Institute of School Business Leadership
- 11.30 - 12.25 **Fostering effective leadership within MATs: developing an effective accountability system, improving financial management of these trusts and supporting the development of MAT leaders**  
*Following recent concerns surrounding the sustainability of some trusts, what further accountability measures need to be put in place to prevent other MATs from failing financially, both internally and externally? In light of the incoming changes to the Ofsted inspection framework, how can measures be further developed to ensure MATs are held to the same leadership standards as maintained schools? How can financial best practice be shared within the sector, and passed effectively from MATs leaders to those working within individual schools? In light of the transfer of responsibility for some underperforming schools to MATs, what measures can be put in place to support and prevent the overburdening of these trusts as they attempt to address the challenges within each underperforming school? What examples can be drawn from outside of education that can provide a template of best practice for MAT leaders, particularly in financial leadership?*  
**Leora Cruddas**, Chief Executive Officer, FASNA  
**Yvonne Spencer**, Partner, Veale Wasbrough Vizards  
Senior representative, multi-academy trust  
Senior representative, local authority  
Questions and comments from the floor with **Stephen Morales**, Chief Executive Officer, Institute of School Business Leadership
- 12.25 - 12.55 **Policy priorities for multi-academy trusts**  
**Dominic Herrington**, Interim National Schools Commissioner, Department for Education  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.55 - 13.00 **Chair's and Westminster Education Forum closing remarks**  
Senior Parliamentarian  
**Sean Cudmore**, Deputy Editor, Westminster Education Forum